

REMARKS

I. Status of the Application

Claims 7, 13, 16 and 18 were pending in the application prior to this amendment. Claims 7, 13, 16 and 18 stand rejected.

With this amendment, claims 7, 13, 16 and 18 have been amended. Claims 19-23 are hereby presented for consideration. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

II. Response to Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 7, 13, 16 and 18 because of informalities.

Applicants have amended claims 7, 13, 16 and 18 and respectfully request that the objections now be withdrawn.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

Claims 7, 13, 16 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,466,378 to Kaneko, et al. (hereafter, "Kaneko").

Claims 7, 13, 16 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneko in view of US 2002/0030744 to Sawachi (hereafter, "Sawachi").

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the amendments now presented herein. For example, independent claim 7 has been amended for further clarification to recite, *inter alia*:

"An operation apparatus which is used for operating a zoom lens, comprising:

a zooming switch which is operated to perform a zooming operation of the zoom lens;

an operation switch which is operated to set a relationship between a pressed amount of the zooming switch and a zoom speed of the zoom lens; and

a display member which displays information on the relationship."

Applicants respectfully submit that Kaneko and Sawachi, taken either alone or in combination do not teach or suggest an operation apparatus comprising "an operation switch which is operated to set a relationship between a pressed amount of the zooming switch and a

zoom speed of the zoom lens; and a display member which displays information on the relationship”, as recited in amended claim 7.

According to the invention of claim 7, a display member displays information on a relationship between a pressed amount of a zooming switch and a zoom speed of a zoom lens. The user may feel uncomfortable about the relationship between the pressed amount of the zooming switch and the zoom speed. This is a problem to be solved by the invention of claim 7. Since the display member displays the relationship, it is possible to prevent the user from feeling uncomfortable. In addition, by displaying the relationship on the display member, the user can take a cue for changing the relationship.

Furthermore, independent claim 13 has been amended for further clarification to recite, *inter alia*:

“An operation apparatus which is used for operating an image-taking device, comprising:
a function switch;
an operation switch which is operated to allocate one of a plurality of functions to the function switch; and
a display member which displays information on the function allocated to the function switch.”

Applicants respectfully submit that Kaneko and Sawachi, taken either alone or in combination do not teach or suggest an operation apparatus comprising “an operation switch which is operated to allocate one of a plurality of functions to the function switch; and a display member which displays information on the function allocated to the function switch”, as recited in amended claim 13.

When plural users use one image-taking device, these users are not able to realize the function allocated to the function switch. This is a problem to be solved by the invention of claim 13. According to the claimed invention, a display member displays information on a function allocated to a function switch by operating an operation switch. Since the display member displays the function allocated to the function switch, the users are able to easily realize the function allocated to the function switch.

By contrast, Kaneko does not teach or suggest a display member as required by independent claims 7 and 13. That is, the display as taught by Kaneko differs from the display member of claims 7 and 13 because the display of Kaneko merely displays an error signal (see

column 5, lines 28-30) and the contents displayed on the display member are different from the contents displayed on the display of Kaneko. Thus, Kaneko does not teach or suggest the display member of the claimed invention.

Furthermore, Sawachi teaches that the LCD panel simply displays information such as image quality (see paragraph 0065). However, Sawachi does not teach or suggest the display member as required by claims 7 and 13. That is, the contents displayed on the display of Sawachi differ from the contents displayed on the display member of the claimed invention. In addition, Sawachi does not teach or suggest an operation switch as recited in claim 13.

Furthermore, neither Kaneko nor Sawachi are aware of the problem to be solved by the claimed invention.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claims 7 and 13, as amended, are distinguishable over Kaneko and Sawachi taken either alone or in combination for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 7 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicants have chosen in the interest of expediting prosecution of this patent application to distinguish the cited documents from the pending claims as set forth above. However, these statements should not be regarded in any way as admissions that the cited documents are, in fact, prior art.

Applicants have not specifically addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicants submit that the independent claims from which they respectively depend, either directly or indirectly, are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Accordingly, the dependent claims also are in condition for allowance. Applicants, however, reserve the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

IV. New Claims

Claims 19-23 have been added to recite the claimed invention in an alternative manner. Specifically, each of claims 19-23 respectively depends from one of independent claims 7 or 13 either directly or indirectly. Accordingly, claims 19-23 are also believed patentable over the cited references (i.e., Kaneko and Sawachi) for at least the reasons discussed above for claims 7 and 13.

Applicants believe that the application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

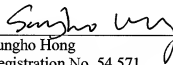
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5343. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5343. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: February 11, 2008

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